Battle Plan Training: Module 2

Division Mental Health in the Theater of Operations

Battle Plan Training Objectives

- The Battle Plan Training modules were developed:
  - To establish a structured training program for all Division Mental Health Section members;
  - To clarify the DMHS's tactics, techniques and procedures in Combat Stress Control operations.

Module 2 Objectives

- What is Division Mental Health?
- Who is on the DMHS Staff?
- Where is DMHS in combat?
- What does DMHS do?
- More about DMHS Personnel.
- What is a Combat Stress Control Team?

Additional Resources

- During review of this Module, consult *Field Manual 8-51, Combat Stress Control in a Theater of Operations, Chapter 2, Section I.*

- The following resources may also prove helpful:
  - *FM 22-51, Leaders' Manual for Combat Stress Control*
  - *FM- 8-55, Planning for Health Service Support*

What is DMHS?

- The medical element in the division with the primary responsibility for assisting the command in controlling combat stress.
- Enhances unit effectiveness and minimizes losses due to battle fatigue (BF), misconduct stress behaviors, and neuro-psychiatric disorders (NP).

FM 8-51, 2-1

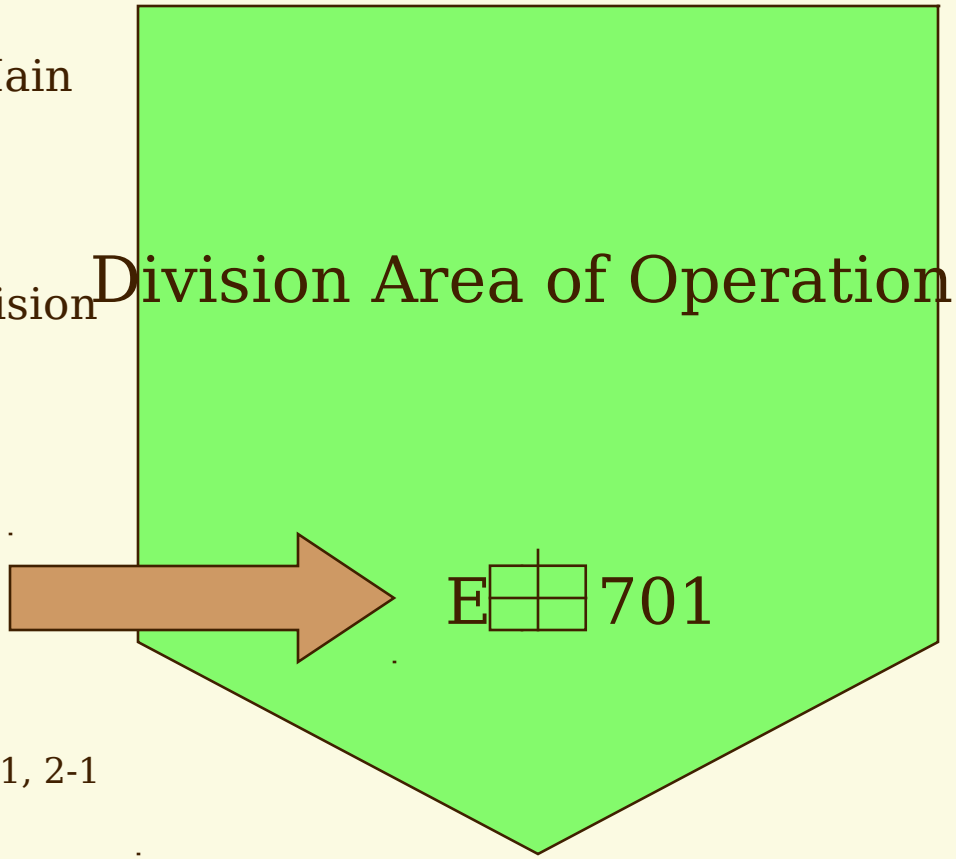
Who is on the DMHS Staff?

- The DMHS unites experts from a variety of mental health disciplines to provide CSC support unity:
  - 1 Psychiatrist
  - 1 Clinical Psychologist
  - 1 Social Work Officer
  - 1 Senior Mental Health NCO (E-7)
  - 1 Mental Health NCO (E-6)
  - 2 Mental Health NCOs (E-5)
  - 3 Mental Health Specialists (E-4)

FM 8-51, 2-2

Where is the Division Mental Health Section?

- DMHS is assigned to the Medical Company of the Main Support Battalion (MSB).
- The Main Support Medical Company (MSMC) is a Division Support Command asset (DISCOM).
- The MS[illegible] logistic[illegible]
- More d[illegible] will follow in Module 3.



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What does the DMHS do?

- Consults
  - Assists command in controlling combat stress.
- Treats
  - Provides direct mental health services to soldiers. Provides clinical evaluation and supervision of treatment for all neuropsychiatric (NP) and problematic battle fatigue (BF) cases before they leave the Division.
- Guides
  - Establishes policy and guidance for prevention, diagnosis, treatment and management of dysfunctional combat behaviors (ie Battle Fatigue and Misconduct Stress Behavior) within the Division area of operations.

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What does DMHS do?

- Trains
  - Instructs unit leaders, chaplains, medical personnel and troops in preventative measures.
- Monitors
  - Monitors morale, cohesion, mental fitness, and dysfunctional stress within supported units.
- Communicates
  - Maintains communications and unity of efforts when Division Mental Health Section personnel are disperse to the brigades.

FM 8-51, 2-1

What does the DMHS do?

- Supervises
  - Supervises selective short-term restoration for HOLD category Battle Fatigue casualties.
- Coordinates
  - Coordinates with support activities of attached corps-level CSC elements.

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More About DMHS Personnel

- Each member of the DMHS has critical responsibilities to support the CSC mission.
- These responsibilities are discussed in the following slides.

Division Psychiatrist (MAJ/60W00)

- In charge of DMHS, Chief
- Directs the CSC program
- Staff Consultant to Division Surgeon
- Treats soldiers.
- Consults for issues involving:
  - Personnel reliability
  - Security clearances
  - Alcohol and Drug programs
  - CSC planning
- Oversees CSC/Mental Health operations
- Consultation to MSMC Commander
- MH Diagnosis, Treatment, and Disposition
- Consultation to medical personnel
- Training of DMHS personnel

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Clinical Psychologist (CPT/73B67)

- Assists with development, management, and supervision of DMHS.
- Serves as the Brigade Mental Health Officer (more to follow).
- Evaluates soldiers.
- Conducts surveys to evaluate unit cohesion, and risk of BF casualties.
- Consults to unit leaders in problem cases.
- Treats soldiers.
- Performs psychological testing when needed.
- Consults to and trains unit leaders and clinical personnel.

FM 8-51, 2-3

Social Work Officer (CPT/73A67)

- Assists with development, management, and supervision of DMHS.
- Serves as the Brigade Mental Health Officer (more to follow).
- Evaluates and treats soldiers.
- Identifies and resolves organizational/environmental factors interfering with combat readiness.
- Apprises unit leaders and clinical personnel of available social service resources.
- Ensures support for soldiers and their families from Army and community support agencies.
- Consults to and trains unit leaders and clinical personnel.

FM 8-51, 2-3

Senior Mental Health NCO (E-7/MOS 91X40)

- Section Sergeant/NCOIC
- Assists with technical and tactical operations of the section.
- Supervises subordinate members.
- Keeps officers informed.
- Monitors /supervises training.
- Monitors/coordinates DMHS personnel reports within the Brigade Support Areas.
- Coordinates additional mental health support (outside the DMHS).
- Supervises restoration of BF casualties at the MSMC by the patient-holding squad and DMHS subordinates.
- Serves as the leader of a Brigade CSC team if no officer is available.
- Conducts mental health-related classes.

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Mental Health NCO (E-5/MOS 91X20 and E-6/MOS 91X30)

- Brigade CSC Coordinators
- Assist Brigade Surgeons with CSC/MH matters.
- Consult to and train:
  - Small unit leaders
  - Unit ministry teams
  - Battalion medical platoons
  - Patient-holding squad and treatment squad personnel in the Forward Support Medical Companies.
- Collect and record mental health data from units.
- Provide counseling to soldiers.
- Refer soldiers for additional mental health care as needed.
- Assist with group debriefings and therapy.
- Conduct mental health-related classes.
- When tactically deployed:
  - Prevent unnecessary evacuations
  - Coordinate return to duty
  - Direct treatment is a low priority.

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Mental Health Specialist (E-3/MOS 91X10 and E-4/MOS 91X10)

- Assist DMHS officers
- Provide initial screening of soldiers.
- Provide supportive counseling.
- Deploy to a Forward Support Medical Company to assist the NCO Brigade CSC Coordinator or Mental Health Officer.
- Serves as squad leader for up to 12 junior enlisted grade BF soldiers in a restoration program.
- Collect and record mental health data from units.
- One Specialist is designated as the CSC Coordinator for the Division Support Area.
- Operation and maintenance of assigned vehicles.

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What is a CSC Team?

- The responsibilities of the Division Mental Health Section extend to all division elements and require a mental health/CSC presence at the combat maneuver brigades.
- To accomplish these responsibilities, the DMHS may be split into CSC teams which deploy forward to brigades in the division.

FM 8-51, 2-1

Brigade CSC Team

- Each brigade is supported by a CSC Team:
  - Mental Health Officer
    - Also known as the Brigade CSC Leader
    - The Senior Mental Health NCO can substitute for the Mental Health Officer if unavailable.
  - Mental Health NCO
    - Also known as the Brigade CSC Coordinator.

FM 8-51, 2-2

1st Infantry DMHS Brigade CSC Teams

- 2nd Brigade CSC Team
  - CPT David Pressman
  - SGT Gerald Denson
- 3rd Brigade CSC Team
  - CPT Nancy Ruffin
  - SGT Jeffery Pfieffer

Exit

Conclusion

- DMHS has sweeping mental health responsibilities within the Division.
- DMHS unifies the CSC effort.
- Each DMHS member has important duties to support the CSC objectives.
- DMHS can be split into Brigade CSC Teams during deployment.